# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3383
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
ISP LICENSEE
BHERU LAL MEENA;JAINARAIN PRASAD NISHAD

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

(a) Whether most of ISP licensees are not being granted right of way approvals to lay fiber cables along the National Highway, despite the fact that the ISP licensees allow them to create their own backbone and infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure that the ROW`s approvals are made easier and uniform;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Group on Telecom and IT (GOT-IT) has recommended that ISPsshould be allowed to set up their own International Landing Station for submarine cables; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNUICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b) The Internet Service Providers (ISPs) arepermitted only to provide `last mile` linkage within local area either by fibre optic or radio communication where local area is the Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) of Department of Telecommunication.

(c) & (d) Based on recommendations of Group on Telecom and IT Convergence, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Telecommunications to streamline the provision of Right of Way (ROW) facility to Telecom licensees, to recommend measures for fast Right of Way clearance mechanism and also to devise a uniform model arrangement, which could be followed by all States in this regard.

This Committee has examined the various provisions, models followed by various States for development of telecom infrastructure/ promotion of IT and has made recommendations along with model code/guidelines including agreement format regarding Right of Way to telecom service licensees as well as infrastructure providers for laying telecom cables/ducts.

(e) & (f) Group on Telecom and IT (GoT-IT) has recommended that ISPs should be allowed/encouraged to set up landing stations for optical fibre cable to increase international bandwidth connectivity for the country. Further, they should be allowed to enter into agreement with under-sea optic fibre providers on commercial terms. Also, there should not be any restriction on the number of such agreements.